

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Wayne S. Breyer on April 5, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

- Replace claim 1, with:

"An article for use with spherical vibration-control elements, wherein said article comprises:

a plate having a number, n , of spaced wells arranged in a two-dimensional array, wherein:

(i) said two-dimensional array comprises at least two rows of said spaced wells with a minimum of three wells in each row;

(ii) said wells are suitably sized so that when a well receives said spherical vibration control element, said vibration control element contacts said plate at substantially every point along a perimeter of said well;

(iii) said wells underlie said spherical vibration control elements, and further wherein, in use, the only constraint to unrestricted lateral movement of said spherical vibration control elements are said wells;

Art Unit: 2832

- (iv) further comprising said vibration-control elements; and
- (v) wherein there are fewer of said vibration-control elements than said n wells.”

- Cancel claims 9 and 11;
- In claim 12, line 1 delete "9" and insert - - 1 - -.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1 – 8, 10, 12 – 22 and 26 – 32 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- The Applicant's arguments, filed on August 13, 2008, regarding claims 11, 15 – 22 and 26 – 32 were persuasive. Therefore, it is considered that the references of the Prior Art of record fail to teach, or suggest any obvious combination of the limitations described in **claims 1, 15, 21 and 26**.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edgardo San Martin whose telephone number is (571)272-2074. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin Enad can be reached on (571) 272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Edgardo San Martin/

Edgardo San Martín
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2832
Class 181
April 7, 2010